

United States Department of the Interior DRAFT NOMINATION
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Vance, Kate and Charles Noel, House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 178 Sunset DriveCity or town: Black Mountain State: NC County: BuncombeNot For Publication: Vicinity: **3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:**Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:**Date**

Title :**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Queen Anne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: weatherboard, shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Kate and Charles Noel Vance House, located at 178 Sunset Drive, approximately one mile from the center of downtown of Black Mountain, North Carolina, sits high on a hill on the east side of the town. The frame, ca. 1894 two-and-one-half-story Queen Anne house faces west and overlooks the central business district and Interstate 40 below. To the east, west, and south of the house is newer residential development dating from the 1960s through the 1990s. Within the current property boundary of two acres are the house, located near the south side of the parcel, a storage shed located to the northeast of the main house, and remnants of the original roadbed which wound up the hillside from Sunset Drive and approached the house from the northwest. The house today is surrounded by a wooded landscape, with an open lawn at the front elevation (west), and a small flat fenced yard to the rear (east) with a modern picket fence. The house is approached from the south, by way of a gravel drive from Sunset Drive. The Kate and Charles Noel Vance house is a highly intact example of the Queen Anne style, with a large rectilinear double-pile house form, a wraparound porch, weatherboard siding, a high hip roof, and notable woodworking throughout the interior of the house.

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Narrative Description

Kate and Charles Noel Vance House. ca. 1894. Contributing.

Set at the peak of a gentle hillside on a two-acre site, the two-and-one-half-story, three-bay-wide, double-pile, Queen Anne style, frame, weatherboarded house features a high hip roof clad in architectural asphalt shingles, with rafter tails and gables on all elevations at the attic level. The foundation of the house is comprised of brick piers, with newer brick infill between the piers. At the southwest corner of the foundation, facing west, sliding wood doors have been added to create a storage space under the house. Documentary photos indicate there originally was wooden lattice between the piers, and no railing at the front steps. There is a wraparound porch on three sides, with a central wooden staircase and a later railing on the west elevation. The porch features chamfered posts, decorative brackets, wide central wooden stairs on the west elevation, and the original molded railing with simple balusters. The wide beadboard ceiling has exposed rafters. Two porches have been added at the rear. Windows are twelve-over-one wood sash with plain surrounds and molded caps. There are two tall corbelled brick chimneys. The house, until recently, was covered with asbestos shingles, but the original weatherboard and shingled gable ends, separated from the weatherboard walls by a frieze band, remained underneath. Most of the changes in the house likely took place between 1932 and 1953, when the Shuford family owned the house.

The front (west) elevation, on the first floor, is three bays wide, with a central multi-panel wood door, flanked by single windows. Directly north of the door is a rectangular, multi-light fixed wooden window. The door surround is plain, with a molded trim above. A wide carved rectangular panel with molded trim and a scrollwork carving with seashell motifs is placed above the entry door and adjacent window. Documentary photos are not clear if this was an original feature or was placed there after the removal of the balcony above the porch. The second floor is also three bays wide, with a double window in the center and two single windows on the north and south ends. Originally, according to documentary photographs, there was a shingled balcony at the central bay of the second story that framed the two double-hung windows, which was removed in the 1950s. There are paired nine-light casement windows in the gable end on this elevation.

The north side elevation of the house has irregular fenestration and consists of four bays on the first floor and two on the second. The wraparound porch extends two thirds of the width of the first floor, sheltering a polygonal bay, housing a small first floor bath. This bath was likely added in the 1940s when several minor changes were made to the house. There are two, four-light, wooden casement windows in this bath addition, and to the west of this is another rectangular multi-light window. At the northwest corner of this elevation is a short run of stairs leading up to the porch, with a break here in the railing. Beyond the porch, at the rear northeast corner of the first floor, there are two single two-over-two wooden windows, the only ones in the house. There are two single second-story double-hung wooden windows and a single nine-light wooden casement window in the gable end of this elevation.

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The rear (east) elevation of the house, with a projecting central bay, has undergone the most change, with the addition at the north end of an enclosed shed-roof porch, accessed by a door facing east. At the south end of this elevation is an added sleeping porch on the second story. Window openings here were originally screened, but are currently one-over-one vinyl replacement windows. There are four single windows on this porch on the east and south elevations, and three facing north. Plain wood posts support the porch above, while underneath is a small area in use as a carport. This is also the location of a rectangular, multi-light stained glass window leading into the dining room. There is a single six-light wooden casement window in the gable end.

The south side elevation of the house includes a paired window beneath the porch, which, similarly to the north elevation, extends two-thirds of the width of the elevation. Beyond the porch, to the east, there is a polygonal bay window at the dining room. There are two steps at the west corner of this bay window which lead up to the porch. At the second story there are two single double-hung windows, and a nine-light casement window in the gable end.

The center-hall-plan interior of the house is remarkable for its extensive, highly intact woodworking. Throughout the house are carved bullseye corner blocks and fluted molding around all doors and windows, wide baseboards featuring an unusual double horizontal band with molding along the top, and four-panel doors. The house features a variety of woods, including chestnut, oak, and heart pine, likely cut from lumber on the property. Each of the four mantels on the first floor is different. All fireplaces were enclosed and mantels removed on the second floor, likely in the 1940s to 1950s, with wormy chestnut baseboards added to the location of former openings, which connect to the original baseboards on either side. Bricks stamped "Biltmore" are used in the fireboxes of the chimneys.

The first floor is a center hall plan, complete with an entry hall, bedroom, parlor, dining room, kitchen, and original kitchen (see Exhibit A, floor plans). The entry hall has chestnut woodwork, and includes beadboard paneled walls above a narrower beadboard wainscot throughout, divided by a chair rail with the same bullseye corner blocks as the door and window surrounds. There is a boxed beam ceiling with beadboards between the beams, and diagonal floor boards. The eight-foot, two-rectangular-over-eight-square-panel front door retains its original hardware, consisting of an iron escutcheon plate with a scrolled top and fluted doorknob. The mantel in this room, with a brick hearth, features simple curved brackets supporting a plain mantel shelf, but the overmantel features two recessed panels of diagonal boards and a scallop-edge motif at the top capped by a heavy molding. The staircase, located at the southeast corner, runs north-to-south and then turns at a landing to run east-to-west. It features a paneled newel post with round finial, turned balusters, wainscot, and paneled walls, matching the remainder of the room.

The first floor bedroom, to the north of the entry hall, is more plain than the entry, with plaster walls and ceilings. The mantel in the southeast corner is small and plain also, with a brick hearth, simple curved brackets supporting a wood shelf, and a plain overmantel consisting of a single rectangular panel. The parlor is located south of the entry hall and has an elaborate mantel featuring a brick hearth, chamfered pilasters with an inverted triangle motif at the top and an overmantel with a single recessed rectangular panel filled with diagonal boards. This panel is

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framed by pilasters with triangle motifs, and at the top of the overmantel is a carved decorative band consisting of leaves, hearts, and a scalloped edging. There are eight-foot paneled pocket doors within the north wall, and walls and ceiling are plaster.

The original dining room, east of the parlor, is currently in use as a den. The same narrow bead-board wainscot as is present in the entry parlor lines the walls, with a chair rail dividing the wainscot from the plaster walls above. On the east wall is a rectangular stained glass window, with small colored squares interspersed within a basket-weave pattern. The mantelpiece in this room is highly unusual, serving as both a mantel and a china cabinet. The mantel with brick hearth consists of a plain shelf supported by carved and chamfered full-height posts, with horizontal bead board across the top just below the shelf. The overmantel consists of three shelves, backed by diagonal bead boards, and surrounded by an undulating carved wood motif serving as the sides of the shelves and the top of the piece.

The kitchen is located to the east of the entry hall, with a room north of it which formerly was the kitchen, according to the original architectural plans. The kitchen floor plan has been slightly modified from the original architectural plans, when it was in use as a butler's pantry. It has been renovated in 2014 with new appliances, sink, counters, tile, and a new oak floor. The floor in the room to the north is also new oak to replace rotted flooring. Non-historic wainscot milled to match the dining room and parlor, although painted instead of stained, has been added in the original kitchen room.

The second floor consists of a central hall, with bedrooms on either side of the hall, two smaller rooms on the north, and two larger rooms on the south. There is a narrow rear hall to the east, with stairs to the attic and a bathroom. Floors throughout the second floor are heart pine, and all walls and ceilings are plaster. Door and window surrounds feature fluted molding with bullseye corner blocks. The attic stairs include an unusual, flat-panel, chamfered and rounded newel post, and chamfered balusters and posts at the top of the stairs. The second floor sleeping porch is accessed through the bedroom at the southeast corner. It is accessed by a small set of stairs, with the doorway replacing an original window on the west wall. Windows on the porch are vinyl one-over-one, and walls and ceiling are narrow bead-board. The attic is currently unfinished space, with variable-width, rough-sawn wood floors, and exposed structure on the walls and ceiling. The only change to the second floor is the closing of the fireplace openings.

Storage shed. ca. 1940. Non-contributing.

This small, one-story rectangular storage shed with a metal-clad gable roof has a central door flanked by two-horizontal-over-two-horizontal windows on the south elevation, but the north elevation is open with all exposed structure on the inside. The building is currently sheathed in wood shingles.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1894

Significant Dates

ca. 1894

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Melton, Allen L., architect

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Kate and Charles Noel Vance House was designed by Asheville, North Carolina, architect Allen L. Melton and constructed ca. 1894 as a summer home for the Vances at a time when Black Mountain, North Carolina, was gaining popularity as a vacation destination. Charles Noel Vance, son of North Carolina Senator Zebulon Baird Vance, served as his father's secretary during his tenure in the United States Senate. The house is locally significant and meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion C for architecture. The Queen Anne-style house has a relatively plain exterior, characterized by a large rectilinear double-pile house form, a bracketed wraparound porch, a mix of weatherboard and shingle siding, a high hip roof with several intersecting roof gables, and multi-light-over-single sash windows. The interior of the house, however, is notable for its intact interior decorative woodworking, especially in the entry hall and several of the overmantels. The elaborate woodwork also reflects the Queen Anne style. The house is an intact and rare example of a Queen Anne summer house from Black Mountain's earliest years as a tourist destination, with a period of significance of ca. 1894, its construction date.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Background

Black Mountain, North Carolina is located in western North Carolina, approximately twenty miles to the east of Asheville. The town is located in the Swannanoa Valley, surrounded by the Black and Craggy Mountains on the north and the Swannanoa Mountains on the south. The town of Black Mountain was originally known as Grey Eagle, a community which remained relatively isolated until the arrival of the railroad in the latter part of the nineteenth century.¹

Railroad construction in Grey Eagle and throughout the State of North Carolina was halted temporarily during the Civil War and did not pick up again until the Reconstruction era of the 1870s following the War. The Western North Carolina Railroad reached Grey Eagle in 1880.² It was a necessary stop along the route from Old Fort to the east and Asheville to the west, with the tunnel through the Swannanoa gap from Old Fort to Grey Eagle as the last section to connect all of these communities by 1881.³

When the railroad arrived in Grey Eagle, the town began to see more rapid growth in tourism, residential neighborhoods, and commercial development. The railroad brought building supplies and tourists, making the period from 1880 through 1915 a prosperous time for the town. The

¹Argintar, Sybil. "Black Mountain Architectural Survey," 2007, p. 3.

²Ibid, p. 4.

³Ibid.

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town's name changed from Grey Eagle to Black Mountain with the arrival of the railroad station bearing the Black Mountain name. The town of Black Mountain was officially incorporated on March 4, 1893.

The influx of visitors, who stayed for several months at a time, began to grow as these visitors sought to escape warmer areas to the east and south, and headed to the cool mountain climate in the summers. Some visitors built permanent summer homes that they could come back to every year once the town became more easily accessible by rail. Religious retreat centers, including Montreat and Ridgecrest, located north and east of Black Mountain, brought additional summer visitors to the area at this time.⁴ Boarding houses, inns, and grand hotels also grew in popularity, with several establishments springing up throughout the community. Some of these included those run by S. F. Dougherty, Mrs. L. J. Kerlee, and J. M. McCoy. W. H. Burnette ran the first hotel in the area, the Black Mountain Hotel. By 1912, a travel guide for the area listed "[...] thirteen hotels and boarding houses in Black Mountain, accommodating 600 summer visitors [...]." ⁵

By the turn of the twentieth century, Black Mountain was becoming a thriving community, with many new homes, a well established and prosperous commercial center, a railroad, paved roads, and an influx of tourists every summer that boosted the overall economic development of the town. ⁶ One of the earliest developers in Black Mountain was the Black Mountain Hotel Company, which platted several large parcels of land near the center of town in 1900, including one of the earliest subdivisions located along Vance and Blue Ridge Avenues, west of the Vance House. Additional properties the Black Mountain Hotel Company developed included land to the southeast of town along Pine and View streets (now Western View and Disosway streets), and up Sunset Mountain (later Miami Mountain).⁷ Another major developer in town was C. P. Kerlee. Kerlee platted land primarily on the eastern edge of the town, Kerlee Heights, in 1913, but also developed property adjacent to downtown. These platted areas near downtown were located along the railroad tracks and Flat Creek, one of the waterways through the town, as early as 1904.⁸ The town continued its growth in the 1910s and 1920s. By 1918, there were electric lights, a sewer system, and a central water system in place in the town and some homes had telephone service.⁹ Hundreds of summer visitors continued to come to the area, and many families made the choice to settle in Black Mountain on a year-round permanent basis.¹⁰

⁴ Swaim, Douglas, Editor. Cabins and Castles: The History and Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina. Asheville, North Carolina: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1981, pp. 25 - 26.

⁵ Robinson, Susan. "Black Mountain Downtown Historic District", 2002, pp. 8-27

⁶ "Black Mountain Architectural Survey," 2007, p. 4.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid, p. 6.

⁹ Ibid, p. 5.

¹⁰ History of Black Mountain, unpublished report by the senior history class of the Black Mountain High School, 1933, p. 34; and The Black Mountain News and the Swannanoa Valley Museum, A Pictorial History of Black Mountain and the Swannanoa Valley, 2003, p. 47.

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It was during this period that E. R. Kerlee, E. B. Kerlee, and Mary Kerlee sold land to Kate Vance, wife of Charles Noel Vance on July 23, 1892, for construction of their summer home.¹¹ Architectural plans for the house were completed by locally known Asheville architect Allen L. Melton by September 1892.¹² By October 1892, Charles Vance received a bid from Mecklenburg Iron Works regarding purchase and shipment of a hydraulic ram and iron piping, likely for drilling of a well and running plumbing and waste lines to the house.¹³ The house construction likely began in earnest in 1893, and was completed by late 1894. These finishing items and furnishings would seem to indicate the house was nearing completion. On July 3, 1894, Charles had purchased a large number of pots, pans, cups, platters, and dishes from Woodward & Lothrop, a department store in Washington, D.C.¹⁴ In August of 1894, Charles Vance purchased a cook stove for the house from W. S. Jenks in Washington, D.C. for \$19.00, and also had received a bid from E. M. Andrews of Charlotte, North Carolina for a water closet, bathtub, sink, and a thirty-gallon galvanized tank.¹⁵ In 1900, Kate Vance purchased another ten acres of land from the Black Mountain Hotel Company, contiguous to the twenty-five acres associated with the house, creating a total of thirty-five acres.¹⁶

Charles Noel Vance (1856 - 1922), was one of five sons of Civil War Governor and United States Senator Zebulon Baird Vance (1830 - 1894) and his first wife, Harriette Espy Vance (1832 - 1878). Charles' brothers included Robert Espy (1854 - 1855); David Mitchell Vance (1857 - 1894); Zebulon Baird Vance Jr. (1860 - 1926); and Thomas Vance (1864 - 1928). Charles Vance served as secretary to his father while he was a United States Senator, from 1879 - 1894. Additionally, soon after his father was sworn in as a United States Senator, Charles Vance was appointed as Clerk of the United States Senate Committee on Enrolled Bills, which Zebulon Baird Vance chaired.¹⁷ In 1885, Charles Vance worked for the Internal Revenue Service, seeking out those who were making whiskey illegally.¹⁸ By 1894, he was employed in Washington, D.C. as an agent of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company of Baltimore,

¹¹Buncombe County Deed Book 82, p. 249. Kate Vance was the only one named on the deed, noted as being "the wife of Charles Noel Vance." Kate and Charles Vance lived in Baltimore, Maryland at the time, while Charles served as secretary to his father, United States Senator Zebulon Baird Vance.

¹² "Zebulon Baird Vance Papers, 1824 - 1915." Collection number 03952. Located at Wilson Library, Special Collections, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Box 8, Folder 121. Floor plans and letter from Allen L. Melton to Charles N. Vance, September 8, 1892.

¹³ Ibid, Box 8, Folder 122. Bid dated October 25, 1892.

¹⁴ Ibid, Box 10, Folder 156.

¹⁵ Ibid. Receipt from W. S. Jenks dated August 15, 1894. Bid from E. M. Andrews dated August 1894. A receipt from Equitable Building and Loan Association to Kate Vance, dated October 10, 1896, noted a \$1200 premium for a three-year renewal of a fire insurance policy, also indicating the house was completed before that time ("Zebulon Baird Vance Papers, 1824 - 1915". Collection number 03952. Located at Wilson Library, Special Collections, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Box 11, Folder 167.

¹⁶ Buncombe County Deed Book 120, p. 293.

¹⁷ McKinney, Gordon B. North Carolina's Civil War Governor and Gilded Age Political Leader. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 2004, p. 345.

¹⁸ "Revenue Officer Vance," *The Union Republican*, 12 November 1885.

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a "...concern that does a great business in bonding government officials".¹⁹ Additionally, Vance was a Mason, was involved in real estate, and ran for the ninth district against Richmond Pearson in 1896, but lost.²⁰ In the last two years of his life, Vance resided at Broughton Hospital in Morganton, where he died.²¹

Kate Tate Vance (1858 - 1911) was from Mountain Island, Gaston County, North Carolina, but spent much of her younger years in Charlotte.²² She was the daughter of Thomas Randolph Tate (1808 - 1871), operator of Mountain Island Cotton Mill, the first large mill in the area, and Anne Laura Humphreys Tate (1817 - 1964).²³ She had four siblings, Henry Humphreys Tate (1836 - 1891); James Turner Tate (1845 - 1910); Ferdinand Alexander Tate (1846 - 1924); and Charles Wilkins Tate (1856 - 1912). Kate Tate met Charles Noel Vance in Charlotte, and they were married November 5, 1879.²⁴

By 1880, the couple lived with Zebulon Baird Vance (a widower by this time) in Charlotte. They moved to Washington when Zebulon Baird Vance was elected Senator from North Carolina, with Charles working as his father's secretary. Kate Vance divided her time between Washington, D.C., Greensboro where her brothers lived, and her Black Mountain summer home.²⁵ By 1910, near the end of her life, her residence was listed as Black Mountain.²⁶ For the last few months of her life, Kate Vance was a patient at Highland Hospital in Asheville, where she resided when she died in October 1911.²⁷

Kate and Charles Vance built their summer home in Black Mountain, approximately two miles to the east of where Charles' father and second wife Florence Steele Martin (1840 - 1924) built their mansion, known as Gombroon. Gombroon, located in the North Fork Valley of Black Mountain, burned to the ground in 1936, and there are no known photographs of the interior.²⁸ Zebulon Baird Vance and Florence Steele Martin were married in 1880, and construction on

¹⁹ Untitled article, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 18 June 1901.

²⁰ Untitled article, *Fisherman and Farmer*, 1 May 1896; "Zebulon Baird Vance Papers, 1824 - 1915." Collection number 03952. Located at Wilson Library, Special Collections, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Box 10, Folder 156. Notice of lodge dues to Charles N. Vance, date June 1, 1894.

²¹ United States Census Records, 1920. Burke County Death Certificate, 1922.

²² "Mrs. C. V. Vance Died Last Night," *The Charlotte News*, 18 October 1911.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ United States Census Record 1880, and "Mrs. C. V. Vance Died Last Night," *The Charlotte News*, 18 October 1911.

²⁶ United States Census Record 1910.

²⁷ "Mrs. C. V. Vance Died Last Night," *The Charlotte News*, 18 October 1911. Kate Vance's death certificate is also signed by a physician at Highland Hospital in Asheville. Kate Tate Vance's second oldest brother, James Turner Tate, who was associated with Mountain Island Cotton Mills in Gaston County, committed suicide in Kate and Charles Vance's Black Mountain house while visiting in 1910. This may have led to some degree of mental illness for Kate Vance ("Mill Man Suicides," *Gastonia Gazette*, 19 July 1910).

²⁸ McKinney, Gordon B., *North Carolina's Civil War Governor and Gilded Age Political Leader*, Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 2004, pp. 376 - 377.

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Gombroon was begun during the summer of 1885, employing many local craftsmen, and utilizing a variety of woods that were available from trees on site.²⁹ Gombroon served as the setting every summer for many visiting dignitaries, who made the trek up the mountain to the property and were entertained in grand style.³⁰ Kate and Charles Vance granted power of attorney to Charles' brother Zebulon Baird Vance Jr. and sold several properties in Asheville in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, some of which may have been used to finance the building of their Black Mountain home.³¹

Numerous newspaper articles refer to Charles and Kate Vance spending time at their summer home in Black Mountain. A newspaper article in the *Raleigh Press-Visitor* notes that Z. B. Vance Jr. was "Black Mountain visiting his brother Charles N. Vance," in 1897.³² Another article, from 1898, notes that "Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Vance of Baltimore are at their summer home at Black Mountain."³³ Kate and Charles Noel Vance never had any children, and it is likely that the additional rooms in the house were used to house dignitaries who came to visit, along with siblings, who apparently visited often.

Soon before Kate Vance's death on October 7, 1911, the major part of the original thirty-five acres with the house was subdivided. A portion of this land, consisting of five lots, was sold to S. T. Graves on August 10, 1911.³⁴ However, after Kate Vance's death, even though Charles Vance was named as executor of her estate (she died intestate), he did not actually own the property. Kate's brother Fred Tate brought a lawsuit against Charles, and the remaining property was sold at auction to E. N. Atkinson.³⁵ Atkinson sold the original twenty-five acres of the property (with the house on it) on January 30, 1914 to A. G. McLemore for \$7400.³⁶ He sold the remaining ten acre tract to A. A. Hegeman on February 9, 1914.³⁷ Grace Curtis, administrator of the estate of A. G. McLemore, sold the property to Roland A. Wilson on June 10, 1924. Wilson immediately flipped the property, selling it on September 9, 1924 to E. G. Hester. This deed included the twenty-five acres plus five lots from the 1911 subdivision that had sold by that point.³⁸ Hester again flipped the property, selling it on November 5, 1924 to T. T. Adams.³⁹ Mildred L. and T. T. Adams lived in the property for several years, selling it to their son, John Q. Adams, on December 16, 1930.⁴⁰ John Q. Adams sold eight acres of the original property (with the house included) only two years later, on June 11, 1932, to Grace and N. C. Shuford.⁴¹

²⁹Ibid and http://docsouth.unc.edu/browse/bios/pn0001702_bio.html "Zebulon Baird Vance, 13 May 1830-14 Apr. 1894," Accessed February 15, 2016.

³⁰ "A Lovely Day in Buncombe," *Richmond Dispatch*, 30 August 1892.

³¹ Buncombe County Deed Books 68,7; 80, 607; 93,569; 109, 47; 71, 366; 71, 586, 72, 239.

³² Untitled article, *The Press-Visitor*, 29 September 1897.

³³ Untitled article, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 22 June 1898.

³⁴ This consisted of lots 70 - 71, and 76 - 78 on the Kate Vance subdivision. Buncombe County Deed Book 181, p. 521; Plat Book 154, p. 86.

³⁵ Buncombe County Deed Book 187, p. 490.

³⁶ Buncombe County Deed Book 190, p. 411.

³⁷ Buncombe County Deed Book 190, p. 481.

³⁸ Buncombe County Deed Books 287, p. 151 and 289, p. 497.

³⁹ Buncombe County Deed Book 294, p. 52.

⁴⁰ Buncombe County Deed Book 430, p. 543.

⁴¹ Buncombe County Deed Book 437, p. 208.

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The Shufords were the next family after the Vances who lived in the house for any length of time. Mr. Shuford was a teacher, and in 1953 became the principal at Owen High School in Black Mountain.⁴² The Shuford family, living in the house from 1932 to 1953, are likely the family that made the few minor changes to the house, including infill brick between the original brick piers, the sliding door between the piers at the southwest corner of the house, the additions of the porches at the rear, the construction of the storage shed, and likely the addition of asbestos siding, which has since been removed in the current renovation of the property.

After the Shuford family, Isabelle and O. R. Thayer purchased the property on September 21, 1953, remaining in the house for seven years until they sold it to James W. Francum.⁴³ James Francum sold the property in 1970 to Charles C. and Aileen B. Meyer, who sold it the same day to Walter and Mildred Wilson. Walter Wilson was a minister.⁴⁴ The property at this time was reduced to the current two acres associated with the house.⁴⁵ The Wilsons remained in the house for twenty-nine years, selling the house on September 3, 1999 to Arah Caprice Hamlin. She in turn sold the property on April 13, 2004 to Janis Partain. Living in the house for only two years, Janis Partain sold the property to Neal Paul Wychock and Jennifer Aubra Randall. The house at this point appears to have gone into foreclosure, and was purchased by Billy S. Bradley in 2011. The current owners purchased the property on February 26, 2014, and have been in the process of restoring the property as their family residence.⁴⁶

Allen L. Melton, Architect

The architect for the Kate and Charles Noel Vance House was Allen L. Melton (1852 – 1917). Born in the eastern part of North Carolina, Allen and his brother, Andrew, were living in Morganton in 1880, working as plasterers and living with their widowed mother. Little is known about Melton's educational background, but he arrived in Asheville in 1886, near the beginning of the boom time in Asheville, after the railroad arrived in 1880.⁴⁷ His office was located in the Sondley Building, located at 44 Patton Avenue in downtown Asheville (which he designed in 1891), for much of his career. From 1886 until his death in 1917, Melton designed some of the most highly distinguished and exemplary buildings in Asheville and other parts of western North Carolina. Contemporaries of Melton included Asheville-based architects Richard Sharp Smith (1852 – 1924) and William H. Lord (1864 – 1933).⁴⁸ Smith was the supervising architect at the Biltmore Estate, who, after completing this work, ran his own architectural practice in Asheville

⁴²Begley, Wendall. In-person interview with Sybil H. Argintar, January 29, 2016.

⁴³ Buncombe County Deed Books 737, p. 340 and 825, p. 47.

⁴⁴ Begley, Wendall. In-person interview with Sybil H. Argintar, January 29, 2016.

⁴⁵ Buncombe County Deed Books 1014, p. 151 and 1014, p. 156.

⁴⁶ Buncombe County Deed Books 2161, p. 333, 3607, p. 573, 4228, p. 1219, 4887, p. 916, and 5188, p. 723.

⁴⁷ <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000221> "A. L. Melton," Accessed February 29, 2016.

⁴⁸ "Architectural Progress of City," Asheville Citizen-Times, 22 July 1901.

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until he died in 1924.⁴⁹ William Lord designed many buildings in Asheville and Buncombe County including numerous residences and commercial buildings.⁵⁰

Melton designed buildings in the popular styles of the day, including Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and in the latter part of his career, in the Colonial Revival. Some of these buildings included the Romanesque Revival Drhumor Building (1895), located on Patton Avenue in downtown Asheville; the Queen Anne Beaufort Lodge (1895), located on Liberty Street in Asheville; the Shingle style Dr. M. C. Millender House (ca. 1896) on Pearson Drive in Asheville, all of which are extant. Buildings that Melton designed in Asheville which no longer exist include the Allen Industrial School (1887 – 1905); Asheville Female College (1888); the Maxwellton Building (ca. 1895); the Sondley Building (1891); and The Klondyke (1899). Melton also designed the Haywood County Courthouse in Waynesville, North Carolina (late 1880s), which has since been replaced.⁵¹

Numerous newspaper articles in the *Asheville Citizen-Times* note that Melton designed many other buildings in Asheville in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, but it is not known if these buildings still exist.⁵² Additional buildings that Melton designed in Asheville and adjoining counties included the Colonel Frank Coxe Building on Patton Avenue (ca. 1896); Mrs. Susie R. Carter House on North French Broad Avenue (ca. 1896); Mrs. Adeline A. Grabau House on Grady Street (ca. 1897); Dr. Carl V. Reynolds House (repair work, 1897); Honorable Thomas Settle House on Pearson Drive ("The Orton", 1900); and the Mrs. R. D. Gilmer House in Waynesville, North Carolina (1900).⁵³

⁴⁹Buildings in Buncombe County, North Carolina attributed to Smith include numerous residences and commercial buildings in downtown Asheville, the cottages in Biltmore Village (1889 – 1910); Grace Episcopal Church (1905 – 1907); In-the-Oaks in Black Mountain (1919 – 1921); and the Masonic Temple (1913). <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000100> "Richard Sharp Smith," Accessed July 18, 2016.

⁵⁰Buildings designed by William Lord included David Millard High School (1916 – 1919); Bryson Gymnasium at Warren Wilson College (1920); First Church of Christ Scientist (1909 – 1912); and the Palace Theater (1910). <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000434> "William Henry Lord," Accessed July 18, 2016.

⁵¹ <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000221> "A. L. Melton," Accessed February 29, 2016.

⁵² Melton suffered a personal tragedy on February 6, 1896. His young son, Guy Melton, only sixteen months old at the time, died when he was extensively burned by going too near a fireplace in the family's home on Bearden Avenue in the Montford neighborhood of Asheville. "Burned to Death," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 7 February 1896.

⁵³ "Work Begun on Colonel Frank Coxe's New Building," *Asheville Citizen Times*, 29 June 1896; "New Residences," *Asheville Citizen Times*, 31 December 1896; "New Residence," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 13 January 1897; "The Sunday Law," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 7 August 1897; and "Mr. Settle's Home," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 19 January 1900.

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Architectural Context

The Queen Anne style, popular in the United States in the late nineteenth through early twentieth centuries, was the culmination of the romantic or picturesque movements of the nineteenth century. It was eclecticism at its best, borrowing elements from various forms and details of other eras and architectural styles, including a philosophy of “decorative excess.” Houses often included elements of the Eastlake, Stick, and Shingle styles. In the United States the style appeared most commonly in houses, rather than in commercial buildings. Wealthy families built the grand Queen Anne mansions, while the working class built smaller versions in the form of cottages with less elaborate detail.⁵⁴

The Queen Anne style house was typically asymmetrical in massing, two to two-and-one-half stories, with gabled, cross-gabled, or high hip rooflines, wraparound porches with turned posts, and bay windows punctuating the flat plane of the wall surfaces. Exterior materials were typically weatherboard, with shingled portions, but some were built of brick. Particularly elaborate houses of the style might have included spindle work, finials, and decorative porch brackets. Corner turrets, again to break the symmetry of the massing, were common. Interior woodworking was often elaborate, and typically dark-stained. The Kate and Charles Noel Vance House, a highly intact example of the style, features many of the typical elements of the style including two-and-one-half-stories, high hip roof punctuated by shingled gables, tall corbelled brick chimneys, wraparound porch, chamfered porch posts with decorative brackets. Compared to Melton’s more typical Queen Anne style Beaufort Lodge in Asheville, with its corner turret, elaborate porch details, and asymmetrical massing, the Vance House is atypically plain on the exterior for the Queen Anne style, but contains elaborate interior woodworking more commonly seen with this style.

The woodworking in the Kate and Charles Noel Vance House is outstanding in its craftsmanship and detailing. The style of the woodworking in the house is typical of the Queen Anne style, including the use of curvilinear patterns, elaborate corner blocks and fluted door and window trim, wave motifs along staircases, and tall baseboards. Molding detail beyond the typical stock bullseye corner block molding surrounds all doors and windows. A common feature of baseboards in the Vance House is an unusual double horizontal band with molding along the top. Another detail found in the house that was sometimes found in woodworking of the style and period is the use of a flat panel at the newel post of the attic stairs. The use of the undulating motif across the top of the dining room mantel in the Vance house is also seen in other examples of Queen Anne woodworking. While it is not documented who executed the extensive woodworking in the house, it is clear that there were highly skilled craftsmen working in Black Mountain at the end of the nineteenth century.

⁵⁴<https://architecturestyles.org/queen-anne/> “Queen Anne,” Accessed July 18, 2016.

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A detailed article in *The Charlotte Observer* from 1901 notes that John Day, grandson of Milton, North Carolina cabinetmaker Thomas Day, completed the woodwork in Gombroon, the summer home of Senator Zebulon Baird Vance, Charles Noel Vance's father.⁵⁵

It is not at all documented, but possible that John Day completed the work on the Kate and Charles Noel Vance House as well, since he had completed the work on Gombroon.

The Kate and Charles Noel Vance House is one of very few Queen-Anne houses remaining in Black Mountain from the 1880s to 1910 time period. This was not a common style built in Black Mountain, and most Queen Anne style residences have been significantly altered. More commonly seen building styles in Black Mountain at this time period were bungalows and vernacular cottages. Of the Queen Anne style houses built, including the Dr. Frank Richardson House at 34 Western View Street, (ca.1895); 103 Disosway Street (ca. 1900); 106 Connally Street (ca. 1900); 903 Montreat Road (ca. 1900); the George W. Stepp House at 115 Black Mountain Avenue, (ca. 1907); 34 Vance Avenue (ca. 1910); 254 Flat Creek Road (ca. 1910); and 15 Pearl Street (ca. 1910). The Dr. Frank Richardson House is the only one that has not been significantly changed on the exterior.

The Dr. Frank Richardson House, at 34 Western View Street is an asymmetrically massed two-story house with a stone foundation, turned porch posts, splayed-eave dormers, and weatherboard siding with shingles in the gable ends. Woodworking is intact in the house, but according to the current owner, bears no similarity of detail to the Kate and Charles Noel Vance House. In contrast, the Vance House has more symmetrical massing and square posts, but is similar in the application of siding. The two-story house at 103 Disosway Street, also built on land developed by the Black Mountain Hotel Company, features Queen Anne styling, with a wraparound porch and two projecting conical-roofed bays. However, it has been altered considerably by the replacement of its original weatherboard siding with cementitious board siding, which has eliminated exterior window trim details. It differs from the Vance House in its use of projecting conical-roofed bays. The house at 106 Connally Street is similar in detailing to the house on Disosway Street, including a wraparound porch, projecting conical-roof bays, and weatherboard and shingle siding, but has all replacement windows. Again, it differs from the Vance House in its massing. The two-story Queen Anne cottage located at 903 Montreat Road has been altered by conversion to a duplex and sheathing in vinyl siding. It is a much smaller house than the Vance House. The George W. Stepp House, a two-story, hip-roof house with asymmetrical massing, wraparound porch, and original weatherboard siding, has been altered by the addition of a handicap walkway on the north, and has been extensively altered on the interior for conversion to a restaurant use. Its massing is different than the Vance House, and it has two-over-two windows versus the twelve-over-one windows found on the Vance House. The house at 34 Vance Avenue has been converted to a duplex and is covered in vinyl siding. It also is a much smaller house than the Vance House. The house at 254 Flat Creek Road, while still a Queen Anne form in scale and massing, has been extensively altered with new windows, a re-built porch, and vinyl siding. The house at 15 Pearl Street has also been extensively altered

⁵⁵ "A Short Visit to Gombroon," *The Charlotte Observer*, 19 August 1901, and Marshall, Patricia Phillips and Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll. *Thomas Day: Master Craftsman and Free Man of Color*, Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 2010, p. 12.

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by the addition of ashlar stone on the first level, a new porch, vinyl siding, and a large addition to the rear.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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February 29, 2016.

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Untitled article about Charles N. Vance. *Fisherman and Farmer*. 1 May 1896.

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22 June 1898.

Untitled article about Z. B. Vance. *The Press-Visitor*. 29 September 1897.

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Chapel Hill. Box 8, Folder 121.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: Western Office, Archives and History

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): BN0443

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.0

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:	Longitude:
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17	Easting: 381150	Northing: 3941770
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Kate and Charles Noel Vance House is shown on the accompanying Buncombe County tax map and the survey of the property, with boundary indicated by a solid black line.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the property is a portion of the historic thirty-five acre parcel associated with the house, which contains the house and storage shed and a portion of the original road bed to the house. The remaining thirty-three acres of the original parcel have been sold, with some of the property to the north and south developed into mid-to-late-twentieth-century single family homes. Most of the property immediately surrounding the house has been left as woodland.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sybil H. Argintar
organization: Southeastern Preservation Services
street & number: 166 Pearson Drive
city or town: Asheville state: NC zip code: 28801
e-mail: sybil.argintar@yahoo.com
telephone: (828) 230-3773
date: August 1, 2016

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Kate and Charles Noel Vance House

City or Vicinity: Black Mountain

County: Buncombe

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Sybil H. Argintar

Date Photographed: December 2015, January 2016, February 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of

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Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.